

## PRACTICAL NEUROLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS

By R. GLEN SPURLING. Pp. xi+233. Figs. 99. Size 6 x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Baillière, Tindall & Cox. 1936. Price 18/-.

This is a readable and commonsense presentation of the methods of examination of the nervous system. The scope includes not only the usual clinical procedures, but also an account of such diagnostic aids as radiography, examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid, and ventriculography. Dr. Spurling modestly disclaims any originality as to the subject-matter, except in the matter of arrangement and perhaps of interpretation. Many of the diagrams are borrowed from other sources, but all of them are clear and comprehensible. The book is well printed and attractive in its format.

## FAVOURITE PRESCRIPTIONS.

Edited by SIR HUMPHREY ROLLESTON, BT., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.D., and ALAN MONCRIEFF, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Eyre and Spottiswoode. 1936. Price 10/6d.

A hospital pharmacopœia is hardly a text calculated to excite the enthusiasm of the medical author. Yet in *Favourite Prescriptions* no fewer than eighteen pens, under the influence of an editorial invitation and stirred presumably by local patriotism, have devoted themselves to the presentation of the virtues of the formulas which are enshrined in the pages of the corresponding hospital pharmacopœias. The writers be it admitted have made the best of their several texts; indeed they deserve the tribute that they have produced chapters of interest out of distinctly unpromising material. Whether the total result is worth all the trouble taken to achieve it is open to doubt. The hospital pharmacopœia is at its best a mixed document and represents habit and convenience rather than scientific prescribing. Yet tradition has its values, and if the old polypharmacy has lost its pride of place the modern tablet and the ready-made prescription are not prescribing at its best. Hence while in the present volume there are formulas which may excite surprise, and even less polite emotions, certain of the prescriptions have the testimony of the

personal experience of recognised exponents of the prescribing art, while there are occasional practical hints on methods of treatment that are well worth noting. Opinions will differ as to the number of needles to be discovered in the haystack, but, to put the position at its lowest, while there is much hay there are certainly some needles.

## THE PRACTICE OF IONIZATION.

By J. NEWTON DYSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.). With a Foreword by Elkin P. Cumberbatch, M.A., B.M. (Oxon), D.R.M.E. (Cantab.), F.R.C.P. Pp. 176. Small 8vo. Henry Kimpton. Price 6/-.

This is a most useful little book because it clearly shows the practitioner how, at a very small cost, he may add greatly to his therapeutic resources.

The first three chapters are devoted to a consideration of the continuous current and definitions of the various electrical terms that are used in connection therewith, are given. Reference is also made to the different kinds of apparatus and the methods of their application. It is pointed out that the necessary apparatus is inexpensive both in outlay and upkeep and that most makers of electrical instruments supply a combined outfit containing all requirements at the cost of a few pounds.

The fourth chapter deals with ionization or the movement of ions which takes place in an electrolyte as the result of the passage of the galvanic current through it. The view that chemical ions can be introduced into the deeper tissues of the body, there to exert their therapeutic effects, finds no favour in the eyes of the writer. He quotes several experiments which appear to prove conclusively that a formerly widely spread belief is no longer tenable.

He does however hold that, although the ions of chemicals cannot be introduced by the constant current deeper than the skin, the action of certain chemicals is frequently made use of in ionization for their local effects on the skin and superficial tissues. This is exemplified by the pearly appearance of the surface of an ulcer after zinc

ionization with a strong current, due to the conversion of the tissue albumins into albuminate of zinc.

Among the most striking effects of ionization, those seen in the treatment of surface lesions, ulcers and skin diseases, call for special mention. The changes that take place can actually be seen and from these the probable effects on the deeper tissues can be deduced when they are similarly treated. The serous effusion, which in inflammatory conditions causes pain by pressure on the nerve endings, is often seen to respond to ionization by a diminution of the pain and a reduction of the swelling. In cases of sub-normal circulation and deficient nutrition and vitality of a portion of the body, the gradual restoration of the circulation to normal can be effectively obtained by the employment of the constant current. The bactericidal action of the galvanic current is briefly mentioned more particularly in connection with the treatment of septic wounds and sinuses.

In a succeeding chapter the various applications of ionization in the treatment of acute and chronic arthritis, osteo-arthritis and affections of the periarticular structures are fully considered. The treatment of deafness and tinnitus is dealt with in the sixth chapter while the seventh is devoted to the methods employed in treating fibrotic conditions in various situations. The application of the constant current in the different disorders of the nervous system is fully set out in the eighth chapter. The remaining two chapters deal respectively with skin diseases, ulcers and sinuses and the treatment of diseases of the special organs.

In view of the fact that the claims of the simpler and less elaborate forms of electrical apparatus are apt to be overshadowed by those of the more complicated and expensive instruments, the appearance of this very readable and interesting work is especially welcome.

## Miscellaneous.

*This Section deals with New Drugs, Preparations, Surgical Instruments, etc. The description of each article is supplied by the Producer. Particulars regarding insertions, which are free of cost, may be obtained from the Business Manager, Fellowship of Medicine and Post-Graduate Journal, 404, Grand Buildings, W.C.2.*

An attractive booklet has just been issued by the Laboratories of Antibody Products Ltd., Watford, describing their specialised treatments for Asthma, Hay Fever, Broncho-Catarrhal Infections, Sepsis, Rheumatism and Cancer in such a manner that they combine the following advantages: (1) Maximum effect; (2) Absolute safety from shock, serum rash, anaphylaxis, etc.; (3) Ready for immediate use; (4) Where applicable, test sets are supplied to gauge the initial dose; (5) The courses of ampoules contain solutions already graduated in dosage.

A distinctive feature of the booklet is the successful attempt which has been made to reproduce illustrations in colour. The result is much more effective than had the ordinary black and white illustrations been employed.

Full descriptions are given of the range of Anti-body Products; Air-borne-dust-proteins, British Grass Pollen, A.P.L. Broncho-Catarrhal Vaccine, Antibacsyn, British-Bee-Venom and Antimalignyn.

Readers may apply to the above address for a copy of this 24-page booklet which gives all the necessary information regarding the nature of the various products, dosage and administration.

Glaxo Laboratories have announced that from November 2nd the price of the 1 lb.

Farex Pack has been reduced from 2/- to 1/9d. At the same time they are also marketing an "introductory" size which will retail at 1/-. Both sizes are now being presented in new rectangular cartons which are specially protected with waxed wrapping.

Ostocalcium which was the first calcium and vitamin D tablet to be marketed, is now reduced in price. The rapidly increasing sales which Ostocalcium enjoys has enabled certain savings to be made in manufacturing costs which are passed on direct to doctors and their patients.